(c) what was Government's reaction and response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. During her visit in May, 2005 to New Delhi, Ms. Shirin Tahir-Kheli, Special Adviser to the US Secretary of State on UN Reform, discussed a range of issues relating to UN reforms, including proposals on Human Rights Council, Peace Building Commission, International Terrorism, Democracy, Management reforms and UN Security Council reform and restructuring. This provided an opportunity for mutual exchange of views on these issues.

Indo-Pak talks

1167. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks are being held with Pakistan Government at various levels;

(b) if so, the issues discussed, particularly since June, 2004, indicating those on which it has been conclusive as well as those on which there have wide difference;

(c) whether Pakistan was provided with details of fugitives from law in India who had been sheltered there requiring them to be handed over to India;

(d) if so, the chronological development, if any, relating thereto in course of the ongoing talks; and

(e) the specific steps taken, if any, by two Governments towards extradition of those fugitives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Significant developments have taken place in India-Pakistan relations since April, 2003. Relations have been restored at the level of High Comissioners, transport and communication links have resumed, one round of Composite Dialogue has been completed; the second round has been initiated by the Foreign Secretaries meeting in December, 2004 and is currently in progress.

People to people exchanges are taking place across the spectrum in large numbers. There has been a resumption of visits by pilgrim groups. Our High Commission is issuing close to 10,000 visas per month. The ceasefire, being observed along the Inernational Border, the LOC, and the

AGPL in Siachen, with the exception of few incidents, has held for more than a year. The Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service has been operationalized since April 7, 2005. Progress has been made in meetings on conventional and nuclear CBMs, and a Joint Survey of the boundary pillars in the International Boundary in the Sir Creek has also been successfully concluded in January, 2005.

The bilateral process has been given impetus through maintenance of high level contacts. The meeting between Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Musharraf in New York in September, 2004 was followed by the visit of Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz to New Delhi on November 23-24, 2004. February, 2005 saw a bilateral visit by an Indian EAM to Pakistan after a gap of almost 16 years. President Musharraf's visit to India in April, 2005 has taken the bilateral process significantly forward. It gave a clear mandate for further CBMs and new proposals as contained in the Joint Statement.

Significant progress has been achieved on the humanitarian issue of fishermen and civilian detenues. During the Foreign Secretary level talks in December, 2004, it was *inter-alia* agreed to provide immediate notification of arrested Pakistani/Indian nationals, and to provide consular access within these months of apprehension. Following this, Pakistan has released around 800 fishermen and 58 civilian prisoners, and India released 156 Pakistanti fishermen and 27 civilian prisoners in 2005.

Thus meaningful progress has been achieved and the Government intends to continue with the present process of building confidence, enhancing cooperation and dialogue in an atmosphere free from terrosim and violence. Government is committed to discuss all bilateral issues with Pakistan. It has made it clear that the process is critically dependent on the fulfillment of January 6, 2004 commitment of President Musharraf not to permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner.

(c) to (e) Government has, from time to time, handed over to Pakistan, a list of fugitives from Indian law, known to be in Pakistan with the request that they be apprehended and handed over to India. A consolidated list of 25 fugitives (including from the list of 20 handed over in December, 2001), along with a similar request, was again handed over to Pakistan during the Home Secretary level talks on the subject of "Terrorism and Drug Trafficking" held in Islamabad on August 10-11, 2004, as part of the Composite Dialogue. The issue of apprehension and handing over of the fugitives from Indian law

has been taken up regularly with Pakistan. Also, during the meeting of the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries on September 4, 2004 in New Delhi, preparatory to the meeting of the Foreign Ministers on September 5-6, 2004, India's proposal for an extradition treaty was reiterated. Pakistan has, so far, not responded positively to these requests or to the proposal for an extradition treaty.

Indo-Us cooperation

1168. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.S. had agreed to cooperate with India in civilian nuclear energy and had acknowledged India as a nuclear weapons power;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the U.S. had expressed to encourage resolution of Kashmir dispute; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Following Prime Minister's talks with the US President during his visit to Washington D.C. on July 18, 2005, the US President conveyed that he would seek agreement from Congress to adjust US laws and policies, and the United States will work with friends and allies to adjust international regimes to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation and trade with India, including but not limited to expeditious consideration of fuel supplies for safeguarded nuclear reactors at Tarapur. The United States also agreed to consider India's participation in the ITER fusion project and the Generation IV advanced reactor programme. India was described by President Bush as 'a responsible State with advanced nuclear technology'.

(c) and (d) The US expressed during Prime Minister's visit was that India and Pakistan must resolve their outstanding problems bilaterally.

Talks with USA on Indo-Pak relations

†1169. SHRI P.K. MAHESWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.